

# **FLAT DECK APPARATUS AND METHOD**

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An apparatus for a deck includes a first frame member, and a second frame  
5 member. One of the first frame member or the second frame member has a spacing  
element thereon. The spacing element spaces the one of the first frame member or  
the second frame member with respect to the other of one of the first frame member  
or the second frame member. The spacing element includes a lip formed with  
respect to one of the first frame member or the second frame member. The spacing  
10 element can also a connector associated with at least one of the first frame member  
or the second frame member. A method for assembling a deck frame that includes  
placing a first frame member with respect to a second frame member, wherein one  
of the first frame member or the second frame member has a spacing device  
thereon; temporarily attaching the first and the second frame members; and  
15 permanently attaching the first and the second frame members.